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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/701,948      | 03/16/2001  | Jo McKnight          | 9404:7285           | 1687             |

7590 07/29/2004

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EXAMINER

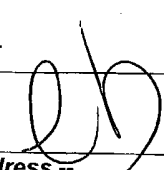
WATKINS III, WILLIAM P

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
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1772

DATE MAILED: 07/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |   |  |   |
|------------------------------|---|--|---|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b><br>09/701,948      | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>MCKNIGHT ET AL. |   |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>William P. Watkins III | <b>Art Unit</b><br>1772                |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 May 2004 and 05 April 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4, 21, 22, 24-33 and 35-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4, 21-22, 24-33, 35-37, and 39 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

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**DETAILED ACTION**

1. The substitute specification filed under 37 C.F.R. 1.125(a) on 05 April 2004 has been entered. The corrected version of the claims filed 03 May 2004 has been entered.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 38 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strong (U.S. 4,286,002) in view of Jackson (U.S. 4,280,487).

Strong teaches a fabric type absorbent layer between a slit or perforated cover sheet and an impermeable back sheet for use under a bed-ridden patient (abstract, col. 2, lines 5-10). The impermeable layer of Strong (element 14) is adapted for contact with a body by lamination with resilient layer 12 that cushions the contact of the impermeable layer with the body. Jackson

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teaches circulation of air through a space formed by an impermeable back layer and a perforated top layer to provide fresh air to a bed-ridden patient with inlet and outlets for the air provided (abstract, Figure 2). The instant invention claims two layers with a middle fabric layer with the upper layer perforated to allow air flow and an air inlet. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide an inlet in the laminate of Strong in order to allow air circulation to prevent bed sores because of the teachings of Jackson.

4. Applicant's arguments filed 05 April 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the new language of the "second layer being adapted for contact with the body of a person" defines over the cited art of Jackson and Strong as both references have cushioning layers on top of the perforated impermeable layers. As there is no specific definition of "adapted to contact the body of the person" in the instant specification, the examiner constructs the language broadly as being something done to or about the top layer that aides in contact with a body. This construction is broad enough to include lamination or coating

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with other materials that would aide in contact with a body, such as a cushioning layer. Applicant continues to argue that there is no motivation to combine the references because the pad of Strong must be disposed of after a large urine flow. Such disposal does not teach away from using air circulation to aide in perspiration and moisture removal, prior to final disposal after a large urine flow, in order to prevent bedsores from forming during the time between urine flows.

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated

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from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William P. Watkins III whose telephone number is 571-272-1503. The examiner works an increased flex time schedule, but can normally be reached Monday through Friday, 11:30 A.M. through 8:00 P.M. Eastern Time. The examiner returns all calls within one business day unless an extended absence is noted on his voice mail greeting.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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WW/ww  
July 25, 2004

**WILLIAM P. WATKINS III  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**